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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/052,262	01/23/2002	Kaori Kondo	500.36734CX1	2917

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EXAMINER

BACKER, FIRMIN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/052,262

Applicant(s)

KONDÓ ET AL.

Examiner

Firmin Backer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

1. This is in response to an amendment file on April 12th, 2005 . In the amendment, claims 24-30 have been amended, no claim has been canceled, and no claim has been added. Claims 24-30 are pending in the letter.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 24-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 24-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter et al (U.S. PG Pub No. 2002/0133793 A1) in view of Tuai (U.S. Patent No. 5,153, 918).
5. As per claims 24, Ginter et al teach a storage medium for recording a document circulation program for circulating a document having a plurality of data blocks in such a manner that the document circulation program can be read by a computer, the storage medium

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comprising a code for receiving the document at a designated worker from a network in which the document contains data blocks relevant to different workers encrypted by using different encrypting keys corresponding to the different workers; and a code for decrypting an encrypted portion of the document received at the designated worker from the network by using a decrypting key corresponding to the designated worker and a code for setting a display condition that the document is displayed after deleting therefrom a data block encrypted by the different workers (*see paragraphs 0184, 0211, 0533, 1355, 1723, 1840, 2121 and claims 30*). Ginter et al fail to teach an inventive concept of a form containing encrypted term by different workers. However, Tsuai teaches a form containing encrypted term by different workers (*see abstract, col. 2 lines 50-67*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ginter et al's inventive concept to include Tsuai's a form containing encrypted term by different workers because this would have use a verification techniques to obtain a secure communication system between a host computer and a plurality of remote user terminals thereby provide a verification capability which can be updated with each allowed access to a computer system employing this voice verification security provision.

6. As per claims 25, Ginter et al teach a storage medium further including a code for indicating whether each of data blocks included in the document is a decrypted document, and whether the data block which cannot be decrypted is to be displayed (*see paragraphs 0184, 0211, 0533, 1355, 1723, 1840, 2121 and claims 30*).

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7. As per claims 26, Ginter et al teach a storage medium storage medium for recording a document circulation program readable by a computer system for circulating a document having a plurality of data blocks over a network, the storage medium comprising a code for encrypting a certain data block of a plurality of data blocks of a document relevant to a certain worker by using an encrypting key corresponding to the certain worker and encrypting another data block of the plurality of data blocks of the document relevant to another worker by using an encrypting key corresponding to the another worker; a code for circulating the document having encrypted certain data block and encrypted another data block over a network; and a code for setting a display condition that the document is displayed after deleting therefrom a data block which cannot be decrypted when the document is decrypted by using a decryption key corresponding to the certain worker (*see paragraphs 0184, 0211, 0533, 1355, 1723, 1840, 2121 and claims 30*).

8. As per claims 27, Ginter et al teach a storage medium further including a code for indicating whether each of data blocks included in the document is a decrypted document, and whether the data block which cannot be decrypted is to be displayed (*see paragraphs 0184, 0211, 0533, 1355, 1723, 1840, 2121 and claims 30*).

9. As per claims 28, Ginter et al teach a document circulation method of circulating a document having a plurality of data blocks, comprising encrypting a certain data block of a plurality of data blocks in a document relevant to a certain worker by using an encrypting key corresponding to the certain worker; encrypting another data block of the plurality of data blocks in the document relevant to another worker by using another encrypting key corresponding to the

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another worker; circulating the document having the certain data block encrypted by the encryption key and the another data block encrypted by the another encryption key over a network; receiving the document having encrypted certain data block and encrypted another data block by the certain worker from the network; decrypting the document by using a decrypting key corresponding to the certain worker, and setting a display condition that the document is displayed after deleting a data block which cannot be decrypted (*see paragraphs 0184, 0211, 0533, 1355, 1723, 1840, 2121 and claims 30*). Ginter et al fail to teach an inventive concept of a form containing encrypted term by different workers. However, Tsuai teaches a form containing encrypted term by different workers (*see abstract, col. 2 lines 50-67*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ginter et al's inventive concept to include Tuai's a form containing encrypted term by different workers because this would have use a verification techniques to obtain a secure communication system between a host computer and a plurality of remote user terminals thereby provide a verification capability which can be updated with each allowed access to a computer system employing this voice verification security provision.

10. As per claims 29, Ginter et al teach a document circulation method further displaying a column of a data block which cannot be decrypted in the form of a blank, when the encrypted portion of the document is decrypted by using the another decrypting key corresponding to the another worker (*see paragraphs 0184, 0211, 0533, 1355, 1723, 1840, 2121 and claims 30*).

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11. As per claims 30, Ginter et al teach a method according further determining not to display data when there is no data to be decrypted (*see paragraphs 0184, 0211, 0533, 1355, 1723, 1840, 2121 and claims 30*).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

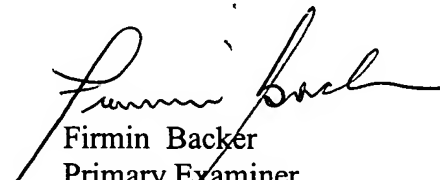
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (571) 272-6703. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Firmin Backer
Primary Examiner
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June 28, 2005